

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

NSC-05 /028 W  
----- 106992

R 271613Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO USINFO WASHDC  
USCINCEUR-ECAP  
USNMR SHAPE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 7680  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MADRID 8109

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURBKEE

USIA FOR IOP/F MILLER: IOP/M

SUBJECT: PRESS PLAY THIRD FORD/CARTER DEBATE

1. MADRID PRESS COVERAGE OF THIRD PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES FOLLOWS TONE OF EARLIER COMMENTARY, EXPRESSING FRUSTRATION THAT "THE INFORMATION MEDIA SEARCH MORE FOR A " WINNER" THAN FOR THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF WHAT WAS SAID," (ARRIBA, OCTOBER 24) AND THAT "FORD AND CARTER WENT BACK TO RECITING STATISTICS," (ABC, OCTOBER 24).

2. NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT JOSE MARIA CARRASCAL, ABC OCTOBER 24, CLAIMS THAT "IF INTELLECTUALLY, THE ASSAULT BROUGHT NOTHING NEW, TACTICALLY THE TWO PROTAGONISTS WERE BETTER. THEY KNEW THEIR LESSONS BETTER, THEY HAD LEARNED MANNERS AND NOT TO SPOUT OFF LIKE IN A STREET BRAWL... ONLY AT THE END WERE THEY AT THE POINT OF GRAPPLING, WHEN CARTER, UNABLE TO CURB THE SOUR GRAPES THAT HIDE BEHIND HIS ETERNAL SMILE, SAID TO FORD THAT HE "SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF SAYING THAT THE ECONOMY IS GOING WELL WHEN IT IS NOT."

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3. JUAN YUSTE, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR EL PAIS,  
OCTOBER 24, CALLED CARTER "CLOSER THAN EVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE....  
THE PRESIDENT REMAINED ON THE DEFENSIVE DURING  
PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE DEBATE, AND TRIED TO  
CONVINCE THE VOTERS THAT HE HAD DONE GOOD WORK DURING  
THE TWO YEARS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.... CARTER INSISTED  
ON THE NEED FOR NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE COUNTRY FROM  
A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT, WORKING IN COORDINATION WITH  
THE CONGRESS,"

4. FELIX ORTEGA, ARIBA WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT,  
OCTOBER 24, WRITES "THE LAST DEBATE PASSED WITHOUT  
PAIN OR PLEASURE, WITH JIMMY CARTER WINNING, IF THE  
WORD CAN BE USED.... IN MY PERSONAL ESTIMATE, BOTH  
CANDIDATES LOST, BECAUSE NEITHER OPENED ANY NEW GROUND,  
WITH BOTH PROMISING TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES, DURING THE LAST  
WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN, TO THE "GREAT THEME", WHICH, BY THE  
EVIDENCE AND AS RECOGNIZED BY THOSE CONCERNED, HAVE NOT  
BEEN DISCUSSED TO NOW." ITEM.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 27 OCT 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PRESS PLAY THIRD FORD/CARTER DEBATE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, (FORD, GERALD R), (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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